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Dear colleagues,

**Broad Global Consultation on the Implementation Guide of the
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)**

As you may be aware, at its eighth session in August 2018, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) adopted Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as an overarching strategic policy guide for countries to reference when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national geospatial information management systems and capabilities. The IGIF comprises three separate but connected documents. The Overarching Strategic Framework is anchored by 9 Strategic Pathways to guide countries towards implementing integrated geospatial information systems.

In August 2018, the Committee of Experts also supported Part 2: Implementation Guide as the detailed document that will provide the specific guidance and actions to be taken by countries in implementing the IGIF. At its ninth session in August 2019, the Committee of Experts welcomed the development and refinement of the Implementation Guide in preparation for subsequent and broader global consultations with Member States and other key stakeholders. The Committee agreed that the Guide should be showcased at the sixth High-level Forum on UN-GGIM, to be held in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in April 2020.

In response to the many challenges and interests faced by Member States, it has been vital to ensure that the Implementation Guide contains all the necessary components and tools to assist countries in their efforts to successfully develop, augment and maintain a nationally integrated geospatial information management program and associated arrangements. Therefore, with the continued support of the World Bank, the Regional Committees of UN-GGIM, and other international partners, over the past year the UN-GGIM Secretariat has initiated an ongoing inclusive global engagement and consultative process through expert workshops and meetings to develop the Guide constructively with more than 110 countries. This approach has had the benefit of ensuring that, as a methodological framework, the IGIF and the Implementation Guide is truly 'country owned, and country led'.

It is against this background that I am pleased to inform you that we are now initiating a **broad global consultation process** on the draft Implementation Guide involving Member States and relevant stakeholders, and thereafter, to provide the consolidated Implementation Guide to the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at its tenth session in August 2020.

Given the volume of information to be reviewed in the Implementation Guide, it is not practical to provide all of the documents with this letter. Therefore, we have established a dedicated IGIF consultation website for your reference and ease of access. The website can be found at this link: <http://ggim.un.org/IGIF/>. You will observe that the opening page contains an overview as well as Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework. The Part 2: Implementation Guide link (<http://ggim.un.org/IGIF/part2.cshtml>) will take you directly to the documents of the Guide.

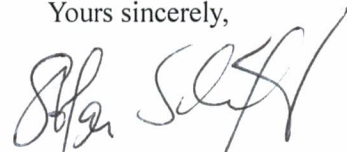
On the Implementation Guide page, each of the 9 Strategic Pathways are provided as separate chapters with appendices where relevant. You will note that these chapters are preceded by an introductory chapter 'Solving the Puzzle', which describes how to understand and use the Implementation Guide. Not all chapters will be available immediately. They are being progressively loaded onto the website as they are completed. For this reason, and given the volume of information required to be reviewed, we are opening the consultation period for 3 months.

I now invite you to review and comment on the draft Implementation Guide. Please download the chapters of the Implementation Guide, which are in PDF format, and insert your comments directly into the documents at the relevant locations using the 'comment' tool. We suggest that you first read and review Solving the Puzzle, followed by Strategic Pathway 1: Governance and Institutions. This will then provide you with a good understanding of the structure and layout of the Guide, which is consistent for all 9 Strategic Pathways.

I would be grateful if you could review the draft Implementation Guide and provide your comments and feedback, preferably directly on the downloaded documents using the 'comment' tool, to my colleague, Ms. Vilma Frani (frani@un.org) by no later than **29 May 2020**. The Secretariat will consolidate the comments, feedback and suggestions, and together with a small expert group, will ready and then provide the IGIF Implementation Guide to the Committee of Experts for consideration and adoption at its tenth session in August 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important global consultation. I look forward to your constructive responses and continuing support to ensure the future implementation and sustainability of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework for all Member States.

Yours sincerely,



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